

**General Assembly**

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Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 20 (e)

**Sustainable development: implementation of the
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in
Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or
Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/67/437, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 29th and 32nd meetings, on 14 and 30 November 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29 and 32).

**II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.17 and
A/C.2/67/L.49**

2. At the 29th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/67/L.17), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 66/201 of 22 December 2011 as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/67/437 and Add.1-9.



"Taking note of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in which the General Assembly recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability,

"Stressing that desertification, land degradation, and drought are challenges of a global dimension and continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, and stressing also the particular challenges this poses for Africa, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries,

"Expressing deep concern about the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, and calling for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels,

"Noting the importance of mitigating the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought, including by preserving and developing oases, restoring degraded lands, improving soil quality and improving water management, in order to contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication,

"Concerned by the devastating consequences of extreme weather phenomena characterized by recurrent and long spells of drought, flooding and the increasing frequency and severity of dust storms and sandstorms and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

"Emphasizing the need to promote sustainable land management, sustainable forest management, the restoration of degraded lands and other sustainable development practices, in the context of sustainable development, to ensure that desertification, land degradation and drought, are combated,

"Noting also that avoiding land degradation while restoring degraded land is crucial in order for the rural poor to achieve food security and access to energy and water,

"Recalling its high-level meeting on the theme 'Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication',

"Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

"1. Takes note of the reports transmitted by the Secretary-General on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions;

"2. Expresses its commitment to strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, and urges Member States to take urgent action to reverse desertification, land degradation and drought, as appropriate, with the assistance of the United Nations system,

relevant regional and international organizations, multilateral agencies, major groups and other stakeholders;

“3. *Invites* the intergovernmental and other relevant processes on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 to give due consideration to the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought;

“4. *Urges* the United Nations system, relevant regional and international organizations, multilateral agencies, major groups and other stakeholders to contribute towards the achievement of a land-degradation-neutral world;

“5. *Resolves* to take coordinated action nationally, regionally and internationally, under the Convention to Combat Desertification, to monitor globally land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and calls for the implementation of the Convention, taking into account national priorities, circumstances and development strategies;

“6. *Stresses the importance* of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the Convention to Combat Desertification;

“7. *Encourages* capacity-building, extension training programmes and scientific studies and initiatives aimed at deepening understanding and raising awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of sustainable land management policies and practices;

“8. *Underscores* the need to strengthen the scientific base of activities to address desertification and drought in accordance with the Convention to Combat Desertification, and in this context calls for the early implementation of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting, to establish an ad hoc working group, taking into account regional balance, to discuss specific options for the provision of scientific advice to its parties, including the establishment of a Scientific Panel, and expresses its support for enhancing the scientific basis of the Convention, including the consideration of a regionally balanced intergovernmental scientific panel on desertification, land degradation and drought;

“9. *Welcomes* the convening of the second United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Scientific Conference, on the theme ‘Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas’, to be held from 4 to 7 February 2013, in Fortaleza, Brazil;

“10. *Reiterates* the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard, invites States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

"11. *Welcomes* efforts made by the secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the World Meteorological Organization, in collaboration with a number of United Nations agencies and relevant United Nations offices, international and regional organizations and key national agencies, to organize and hold a high-level meeting on national drought policy in Geneva in March 2013;

"12. *Calls for* enhanced support and strengthening of the implementation of the Convention and the ten-year strategic plan and framework, including through mobilizing adequate, predictable and timely financial resources;

"13. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Global Environment Facility, in further enhancing resource allocation during future replenishments, to consider increasing allocations to the land degradation focal area;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa';

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 32nd meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/67/L.49), submitted by the Rapporteur on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.17.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and to proceed to take action on the draft resolutions.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.49 had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at the 32nd meeting, on 30 November, the facilitator of the draft resolution, Andreas Pfaffernoschke (Germany), orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.32).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.49, as orally corrected (see para. 11).

8. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/67/SR.32).

9. A statement was also made by the representative of the World Meteorological Organization (see A/C.2/67/SR.32).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.49, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/201 of 22 December 2011 as well as other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",² which, inter alia, recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability, stressed that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension and continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular developing countries, stressed also the particular challenges this poses for Africa, the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries, expressed deep concern at the devastating consequences of cyclical drought and famine in Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, and called for urgent action through short-, medium- and long-term measures at all levels,

Recalling further that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation and, in view of this, for striving to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development, which should act to catalyse financial resources from a range of public and private sources,

Concerned by the devastating consequences of extreme weather phenomena in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions characterized by recurrent and long spells of drought, flooding, increasing frequency and severity of dust storms and sandstorms and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Emphasizing the need to promote sustainable land management, sustainable forest management and the restoration of degraded lands in order to combat desertification, land degradation and drought,

Noting that avoiding additional land degradation while restoring degraded land is crucial in order for the rural poor to achieve food security and access to energy and water,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

² Resolution 66/288, annex.

Noting also the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ and the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁴ while respecting their individual mandates,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, including its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Recalling its high-level meeting on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication",

Welcoming the organization of the second Scientific Conference of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, on the theme "Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas", to be held from 4 to 7 February 2013 in Fortaleza, Brazil,

Noting efforts made by the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the World Meteorological Organization, in collaboration with a number of United Nations agencies and relevant United Nations offices, international and regional organizations and key national agencies, to organize and hold a high-level meeting on national drought policy in Geneva in March 2013,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 66/201 and on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;⁵

2. *Calls upon* Member States to take urgent action to reverse desertification, land degradation and drought, as appropriate, with the assistance of the United Nations system, relevant regional and international organizations, multilateral agencies, major groups and other stakeholders;

3. *Reaffirms* its resolve, in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to take coordinated action, nationally, regionally and internationally, to globally monitor land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and its resolve to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention and the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance its implementation (2008-2018), including by mobilizing adequate, predictable and timely financial resources, notes the importance of mitigating the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought, including by preserving and developing oases, restoring degraded lands, improving soil quality and improving water management in order to contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication, encourages and recognizes in this regard the importance of partnerships and initiatives for the safeguarding of land resources, and also encourages capacity-building, extension training programmes and scientific studies and initiatives aimed

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁵ A/67/295.

at deepening understanding and raising awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of sustainable land management policies and practices;

4. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issues of desertification, land degradation and drought in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

6. *Also stresses* the importance of efforts under way to strengthen the scientific base of activities to address desertification and drought in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and in this context takes note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting, to set up an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification, land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the Convention;

7. *Reiterates* the need for cooperation through the sharing of climate and weather information, forecasting and early warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and subregional levels, and in this regard invites States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems;

8. *Notes* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the involvement of those stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention and the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

9. *Reiterates its invitation* to the Global Environment Facility, in further enhancing resource allocation during future replenishments, to consider increasing allocations to the land degradation focal area, depending on the availability of resources;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Sixty-seventh session
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Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity**Report of the Second Committee***

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/67/437, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 29th and 35th meetings, on 15 November and 11 December 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29 and 35).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.27 and A/C.2/67/L.58

2. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development" (A/C.2/67/L.27), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010 and 66/202 of 22 December 2011 and previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

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(‘Johannesburg Plan of Implementation’), the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’ and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

“Reaffirming all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof,

“Recalling that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including through appropriate access to those resources, appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and technologies, and appropriate funding,

“Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

“Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

“Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

“Recalling that in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared the decennium 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

“Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

“Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and acknowledging the role of access and benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of genetic resources in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental

sustainability and, thereby, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

"Noting also that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that one hundred and sixty-three States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"Noting further that ninety-one States and one regional economic integration organization have signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, as well as the decision on the review of its implementation, including the establishment of targets, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting,

"Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, from 8 to 19 October 2012, and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, from 1 to 5 October 2012, both held in Hyderabad, and welcoming the decision by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting to endorse the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, all to be held in the second half of 2014,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"2. Notes with appreciation the recent appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and expresses its support for his tenure;

"3. Reaffirms the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want' and, in particular, the section referring to biodiversity as one of the important thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues, and urges its speedy implementation by Member States and other stakeholders;

"4. Welcomes the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially the commitment to doubling biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015 and, at least, maintaining this level until

2020, and of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, both held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012 and from 1 to 5 October 2012, respectively, which marked the concretization of a comprehensive implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010;

"5. *Affirms its commitment* to the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to increase total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to mainstream biodiversity conservation and action in national development plans, to provide resource support to Parties, to address funding needs, gaps and priorities and to make concerted efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

"6. *Welcomes* the launch at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Hyderabad Pledge to boost resource support for global biodiversity action, expresses appreciation for the contribution made by India, and calls upon all parties to contribute resources for biodiversity conservation and action and also to contribute to strengthening institutional mechanisms, human resources support and capacity-building towards this endeavour, in particular in developing countries;

"7. *Requests* Governments and all stakeholders to incorporate, within their national strategies and action plans, measures to ensure the fair and equitable benefit-sharing of the results of the research and development and the benefits arising out of the economic, commercial and other utilization of genetic resources, including non-market-based approaches;

"8. *Also requests* Governments and all stakeholders to incorporate, within their national strategies and action plans, measures to protect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, with their participation, and to promote the equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the research, development and any utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

"9. *Recalls* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity make a critical contribution to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

"10. *Recognizes* that the coherent and efficient implementation of obligations and commitments under the Convention require action at the global, regional and national levels, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address the obstacles that impede the full implementation of the Convention;

"11. *Calls upon* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to increase and improve their cooperation for technology transfer and capacity-building for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly with regard to innovation capacities applied to the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated to those resources in developing countries, through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

"12. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impact and benefit of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, including traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources, as well as ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

"13. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening national, regional and international capacities and improving cooperation to appropriately address and prevent situations of non-compliance with the obligations and commitments of the Convention, including those related to misuse, misappropriation and misexploitation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, while reaffirming fully the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

"14. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in this regard requests the secretariat of the Convention to report to Member States on the advancement of those targets, including difficulties encountered in the process of implementation, by the sixty-eighth session;

"15. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ('the Rio conventions'), and in this regard acknowledges the importance of improving coherence and enhancing synergies in the implementation of the Rio conventions;

"16. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and in this regard acknowledges the importance of improving coherence and enhancing synergies in the implementation of the Rio conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

"17. *Invites* all Member States and all relevant stakeholders to take concrete steps towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and their contribution to sustainable development;

"18. *Encourages* all parties that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"19. *Invites* parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, so as to ensure its early entry into force and its implementation, and requests the

Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to undertake capacity-building and development initiatives to support the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, including holding the necessary briefings for parties at all levels, to organize and carry out treaty-signing ceremonies during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and to report to Member States on these initiatives;

"20. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and invites an early commencement of its work, in order to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers;

"21. *Also takes note* of the work of other relevant international bodies, in particular the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, taking into account the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, and in this regard stresses the importance of improving coherence and enhancing synergies among them;

"22. *Requests* the secretariat of the Convention to organize a joint briefing by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the secretariat of the Convention on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biodiversity, including actions undertaken to promote appropriate access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated to those resources, within the framework of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, and to submit an executive summary to the General Assembly before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

"23. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At its 35th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development" (A/C.2/67/L.58), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.27.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.58 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution, Agus Muktamar (Indonesia), orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.35).
6. Also at its 35th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.58, as orally corrected (see para. 9).
7. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (A/C.2/67/SR.35).
8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.58, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010 and 66/202 of 22 December 2011 and previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁵ the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",⁶ and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁷

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁸ and its principles,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁹

Recalling that the objectives of the Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annexes I and II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁷ Resolution 65/1.

⁸ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁹ Resolution 61/295, annex.

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that, in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared the decade 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,¹⁰

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Taking note of the annex to decision XI/14 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eleventh meeting,¹¹ in which the parties, noting the recommendations contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the report of the tenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,¹² requested the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions, taking into account submissions by parties, other Governments, relevant stakeholders and indigenous and local communities, to consider this matter and all its implications for the Convention and the parties, at its next meeting, for further consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹³ and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and thereby to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting also that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that one hundred and

¹⁰ See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2.

¹¹ See UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35, annex I.

¹² E/2011/43-E/C.19/2011/14 and Corr.1.

¹³ UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

sixty-three States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.¹⁴

Noting further that ninety-one States and one regional economic integration organization have signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention,¹⁵ as well as decisions X/3 and XI/4 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth¹⁶ and eleventh¹⁷ meetings on the review of its implementation, including the establishment of preliminary targets,

Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, from 8 to 19 October 2012, and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, from 1 to 5 October 2012, both held in Hyderabad, and welcoming the decision by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting to endorse the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, all due to be held in the second half of 2014,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;¹⁷

2. *Notes with appreciation* the recent appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and expresses its support for his tenure;

3. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",⁶ and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity;

4. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;¹¹

5. *Recognizes* that parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ have reiterated that resources, financial, human and technical, need to be mobilized from all sources and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,¹⁰ stresses the need for further consideration of the evaluation of all resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved, and in this regard welcomes the decision of the

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹⁵ UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/11.

¹⁶ See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.

¹⁷ A/67/295, sect. III.

parties to the Convention¹⁸ on an overall substantial increase in total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from a variety of sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization, international cooperation and the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms;

6. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by parties to the Convention and relevant stakeholders that aim to effectively implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, expresses appreciation for the contribution made by the Government of India at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties through the Hyderabad Pledge, which aims to strengthen institutional mechanisms and enhance technical and human capabilities and includes earmarked funds to promote similar capacity-building in developing countries, and encourages parties in a position to do so to undertake similar initiatives;

7. *Encourages* Governments and all stakeholders, in line with the provisions of the Convention, to take measures that aim to share, in a fair and equitable way, the results of the research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources on mutually agreed terms;

8. *Recognizes* the role indigenous and local communities can have in the stewardship and sustainable management of natural renewable resources, and the possible role of market- and non-market-based approaches in the management of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* parties and all stakeholders to incorporate, within their national strategies and action plans, measures to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, and to encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

10. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in achieving biodiversity targets, and invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships;

11. *Recognizes* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

12. *Encourages* parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,¹³ requests parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and

¹⁸ Decision XI/4, entitled "Review of implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, including the establishment of targets", adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

efficiently implement their obligations and commitments under the Convention, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that impede the full implementation of the Convention;

13. *Urges* the parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, and in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as well as of decision XI/2, entitled "Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties";¹¹

14. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as of ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, calls upon parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention, including through addressing implementation gaps, particularly with regard to article 15 of the Convention;

16. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁹ and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change²⁰ ("the Rio conventions") and of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,¹⁰ adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

18. *Notes* the efforts to mainstream the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the contribution of the United Nations system to support the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and invites the United Nations system to continue facilitating cooperation among its members in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

19. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

20. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, so as to ensure its early entry into force and its implementation, and furthermore requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue supporting capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol, and in this regard notes the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund within the Global Environment Facility, aimed at supporting concrete capacity development projects for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

21. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its potential benefit to Governments, invites an early commencement of its work, in order to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers, and encourages Member States that have not yet done so to become members of the Platform;

22. *Decides* to devote one of the special events of the Second Committee during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as part of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and to further efforts to improve coherence, to a joint briefing by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the relevant United Nations bodies on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, and to include an executive summary of the event in the note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions²¹ to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

23. *Encourages* parties and all stakeholders, institutions and organizations concerned to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development;

24. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the advancement of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including on difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

²¹ Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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Agenda item 20 (g)

**Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council
of the United Nations Environment Programme on its
twelfth special session****Report of the Second Committee***

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/67/437, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 29th and 34th meetings, on 15 November and 7 December 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29 and 34).

**II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.21 and
A/C.2/67/L.44**

2. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and implementation of the environment pillar in the context of General Assembly resolution 66/288" (A/C.2/67/L.21), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 64/204 of 21 December 2009, 65/162 of 20 December 2010, 66/203 of 22 December 2011 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/67/437 and Add.1-9.



"2. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, takes note in this regard the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals are discussed;

"3. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organizations and entities in Nairobi;

"4. *Decides*:

"(a) To strengthen and upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme in the manner set out in subparagraphs a to h of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, entitled 'The future we want', as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012;

"(b) To establish universal membership at the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and mandates it, at its first plenary session to be held in 2013, to implement the provisions of paragraph 88 (a to h);

"(c) To request the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary steps to provide support for the full and effective participation of all developing countries;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that at least 2 per cent of the resources included in his proposed budget for the 2014-2015 biennium are allocated to the United Nations Environment Programme;

"6. *Encourages* donors to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme;

"7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Report of the Governing Body of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-seventh session' for endorsement by the General Assembly."

3. At its 34th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/67/L.44), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.21.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44 (see A/C.2/67/SR.34).
5. Also at the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution, Jorge Laguna-Celis (Mexico), orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44.
6. Also at its 34th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44, as orally corrected (see para. 9).
7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of the European Union, the United States of America, Japan, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Canada (see A/C.2/67/SR.34).
8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.44, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the mandate contained in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which established the United Nations Environment Programme, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 7 February 1997¹ and the 2000 Malmö Ministerial Declaration of 31 May 2000,²

Recalling its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 64/204 of 21 December 2009, 65/162 of 20 December 2010, 66/203 of 22 December 2011 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

Taking into account Agenda 21³ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),⁴

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁵ and its principles,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁶

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.*

² *Ibid., Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/55/25), annex I, decision SS.VI/1, annex.*

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁶ Resolution 60/1.

*Recalling also the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,*⁷

Committed to strengthening international environmental governance within the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development in order to promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination within the United Nations system,

Recalling the outcome document, entitled "The future we want",⁸ of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which invited the General Assembly to adopt, at its sixty-seventh session, a resolution strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme, in the manner outlined in paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (h) of the outcome document,

Recalling also paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, encouraging parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in the chemicals and waste cluster and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field,

Reiterating the need for secure, stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with its resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlining the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget,

Reiterating also that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and the decisions contained therein;*⁹

2. *Reiterates the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and in this regard takes note of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed;*

3. *Also reiterates the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to*

⁷ UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

⁸ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/67/25).*

keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organizations and entities in Nairobi;

4. *Decides to:*

(a) Strengthen and upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme in the manner set out in subparagraphs (a) to (h) of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, entitled "The future we want",⁸ of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012;

(b) Establish universal membership in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and mandates it, as from its first universal session to be held in Nairobi in February 2013, using its applicable rules of procedure and applicable rules and practices of the General Assembly, pending the adoption of its new rules of procedure, to expeditiously initiate the implementation of the provisions contained in paragraph 88 of the outcome document in its entirety; make a recommendation on its designation to reflect its universal character; and decide on future arrangements for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

(c) Request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to provide support for the full and effective participation of representatives of developing countries in the Governing Council meeting and invite the Governing Council to consider further arrangements in this regard;

5. *Recalls* the decision to have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, and:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General, in line with paragraph 88 (b) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to reflect in the 2014-2015 biennium budget proposal resources that take into account the proposed revised programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the implementation of paragraph 88, subparagraphs (a) to (h), of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources;

(b) Urges donors to increase voluntary funding to the United Nations Environment Programme, including to the Environment Fund;

(c) Requests the Secretary-General to maintain the resource needs from the regular budget of the United Nations for the United Nations Environment Programme under review, in the light of the implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document, in accordance with United Nations budgetary practices;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session".

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Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature**Report of the Second Committee***

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/67/437, para. 2). Action on sub-item (h) was taken at the 30th and 34th meetings, on 21 November and 7 December 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.30 and 34).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.37 and Rev.1

2. At the 30th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Harmony with Nature" (A/C.2/67/L.37), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"Recalling its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010 and 66/204 of 22 December 2011 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/67/437 and Add.1-9.



"Recalling also the 1982 World Charter for Nature,

"Recalling further its resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled 'International Day of Nowruz', and its resolution 65/309 of 19 July 2011, entitled 'Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development',

"Taking note of the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, which was held on 18 April 2012 to commemorate International Mother Earth Day by discussing the scientific findings on how human activities are affecting the Earth system,

"Noting the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,

"Recalling the outcome document entitled 'The future we want' of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

"Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on the Earth system,

"Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the need to overcome this limitation with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

"Recognizing also the uneven availability of statistical basic data under the three pillars of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

"Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

"Recognizing that many ancient civilizations and indigenous peoples' cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

"Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise more sustainable models for production and consumption,

"Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

"1. *Takes note* of the third report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;

"2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2013, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to continue discussing the scientific findings on how human activities are affecting the Earth system;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2013, and invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this fund;

"4. *Welcomes* the launching of the Harmony with Nature website, on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, by the Secretariat of the Conference and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and, further, invites the Division to maintain and expand the website by gathering information and contributions on ideas and activities that promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature and that are being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge;

"5. *Recognizes* that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that 'Mother Earth' is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, notes that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and also recognizes that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature;

"6. *Encourages* all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three pillars of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

"7. *Invites* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to work with other relevant actors, including non-governmental organizations, experts and the academic community, as appropriate, both to identify new ways and means to overcome the limitations of gross domestic product with regard to sustainable development and to better measure the environmental degradation resulting from human activity;

"8. *Recognizes* the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard requests the United Nations Statistical Commission, in consultation with relevant United Nations system entities and other relevant

organizations, to launch a programme of work in this area, building on existing initiatives;

“9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, as an input for the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;

“10. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled ‘Harmony with Nature’.”

3. At its 34th meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Harmony with Nature” (A/C.2/67/L.37/Rev.1), submitted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Subsequently, Algeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Georgia and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.34).

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia made a statement, in the course of which he orally corrected the draft resolution.

6. Also at the 34th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.37/Rev.1, as orally corrected, without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁵

Recalling its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009, 65/164 of 20 December 2010 and 66/204 of 22 December 2011 on Harmony with Nature and its resolution 63/278 of 22 April 2009, by which it designated 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling also the 1982 World Charter for Nature,⁶

Recalling further its resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled "International Day of Nowruz", and its resolution 65/309 of 19 July 2011, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development",

Taking note of the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature, which was held on 18 April 2012, to commemorate International Mother Earth Day by discussing the scientific findings on the impacts of human activities on the functioning of the Earth system,

Noting the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010,⁷

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",⁸

Expressing concern about documented environmental degradation, increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ Resolution 37/7, annex.

⁷ See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

⁸ Resolution 66/288, annex.

the effects of human activities on the Earth ecosystems, with the aim of promoting and ensuring an equitable, balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth,

Recognizing that gross domestic product was not designed as an indicator for measuring environmental degradation resulting from human activity and the need to overcome this limitation with regard to sustainable development and the work carried out in this regard,

Recognizing also the uneven availability of basic statistical data under the three pillars of sustainable development and the need to improve their quality and quantity,

Reaffirming that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that many ancient civilizations and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing also the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise more sustainable models for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Takes note* of the third report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;⁹
2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, an interactive dialogue, to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 22 April 2013, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to advance discussions on economic approaches, in the context of sustainable development, to further a more ethical basis for the relationship between humanity and the Earth;
3. *Recalls* its resolutions requesting the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of independent experts in the interactive dialogue to be held at the plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day, and in this regard invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this trust fund;
4. *Welcomes* the launching of the Harmony with Nature website on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by the secretariat of the Conference and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to continue making use of the existing website maintained by the

⁹ A/67/317.

Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs by gathering information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge and on existing national legislation;

5. *Recognizes* that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that "Mother Earth" is a common expression in a number of countries and regions, and that some countries recognize the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development, and convinced that, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, it is necessary to promote harmony with nature;

6. *Call* for holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems;

7. *Encourages* all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three pillars of sustainable development, and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

8. *Recognizes* the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions, and in this regard recalls the request made to the United Nations Statistical Commission, in paragraph 38 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,⁸ that the Commission, in consultation with relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations, launch a programme of work in this area, building on existing initiatives;

9. *Underlines*, in this regard, the need to expedite the launch of this programme of work;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be included also as an input for the discussion of the post-2015 development agenda, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Harmony with Nature".

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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy**Report of the Second Committee***

Rapporteur: Ms. Aida **Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/67/437, para. 2). Action on sub-item (i) was taken at the 29th and 33rd meetings, on 15 November and 5 December 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.26 and A/C.2/67/L.52

2. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy" (A/C.2/67/L.26), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009 and 66/206 of 22 December 2011 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and its resolution 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/67/437 and Add.1-9.



"Recalling also its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want',

"Recalling the high-level event on sustainable energy for all, which took place on 24 September 2012 during its sixty-seventh session,

"Concerned that lack of access to energy and to modern energy services have a direct impact on efforts towards the achievement of poverty eradication, the greatest global challenge, as well as the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in the developing world,

"Deeply concerned that over 3 billion people in developing countries rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that 1.4 billion people are without electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

"Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"Emphasizing also the need to take urgent action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

"Noting the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which aims at promoting the diffusion and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

"Highlighting the importance of empowering developing countries as a way to achieve the rapid expansion of renewable energy worldwide,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. Stresses the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy mix, in accordance with national circumstances and capacities, with the primary objective of achieving universal access to energy for all;

"3. Recognizes that the current share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy supply remains low owing to high costs and lack of access to appropriate technologies, and calls for action to achieve the economic viability of new and renewable sources of energy through enhanced research and development support, along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments

working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in accordance with their national priorities and objectives;

"4. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of new and existing environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), for all sources of energy, in particular new and renewable sources of energy;

"5. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

"6. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which, over the longer term, could meet the growing need for energy services to achieve sustainable development;

"7. *Calls upon* Member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to energy a priority for eradicating poverty and improving the quality of life, reducing inequality and curbing environmental risks in accordance with national priorities;

"8. *Encourages* the development of appropriate technologies, through enhanced research and development, that result in the most rapid reduction of the cost of new and renewable sources of energy and increase the competitiveness of those technologies;

"9. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors to prioritize investment on concessional and soft terms to developing countries, for research and production, in the new and renewable energy sector;

"10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources in a stable and predictable manner, and technology transfer and technical assistance in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy'."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy"

(A/C.2/67/L.52), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.26.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.52 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution, Candida Novak Hornakova (Czech Republic), orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/67/SR.33).

6. Also at its 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.52, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.52, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.26 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009 and 66/206 of 22 December 2011 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, and also its resolution 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All,

Recalling also its resolution 55/2 of 8 December 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,²

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development³ and of Agenda 21,⁴ and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")⁵ and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",⁶

Recalling the high-level event on Sustainable Energy for All, which was held at its sixty-seventh session and which focused on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energies,

Concerned that lack of access to energy and sustainable modern energy services is an important factor that directly affects efforts towards poverty eradication, the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the developing world,

Deeply concerned that 2.6 billion people in developing countries rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, that 1.3 billion people are without electricity and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

¹ See resolution 60/1.

² Resolution 65/1.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁵ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable sources of energy for sustainable development could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing also the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the provision of the efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which is aimed at promoting the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Highlighting the importance of the empowerment of developing countries as the way to achieve a rapid expansion of renewable energy worldwide,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General;⁷
2. *Decides* to declare the decade 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, to be promoted through all sources of energy, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980;
3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All for submission to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session;
4. *Stresses* the need to increase the share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy mix as an important contribution to achieving universal access to sustainable modern energy services, and recognizes that the activities of countries in broader energy-related matters are prioritized according to their specific challenges, capacities and circumstances, including their energy mix;
5. *Emphasizes* that improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy, and cleaner and energy-efficient technologies are important for sustainable development;
6. *Recognizes* that the current share of new and renewable sources of energy in the global energy supply is still low owing to, among other factors, high costs and lack of access to appropriate technologies, and calls for action to achieve economic

⁷ Reports of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, 2012 (A/67/314) and on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (A/67/318).

viability of new and renewable sources of energy through enhanced research and development support along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the diffusion of new and existing environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;⁵

8. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

9. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

10. *Reaffirms its determination* to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of giving appropriate consideration to energy issues in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

12. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable modern energy services a priority, as such services contribute to poverty eradication, improve the quality of life, reduce inequality, save lives, improve health and help to provide for basic human needs, as well as curb environmental risks, including those associated with climate change, and stresses that these services are essential to social inclusion and gender equality;

14. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in the most rapid reduction in the cost of new and renewable sources of energy and increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment;

15. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to

assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account, inter alia, the initiatives taken by Member States and international organizations to create an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including measures to improve access to such technologies;

18. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities around the world, from within existing resources;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".